



Utilize Polio Program Assets to Reach the Targets for Measles/Rubella Elimination and Strengthening the Routine Immunization Program in Egypt

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Program
- ◆ Unit: Polio & Immunization Department

OBJECTIVES

This project's main goal is to maximize the use of national polio program assets in strengthening immunization activities and addressing challenges in low immunization coverage areas in relation to Measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) with particular focus on Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), Fever and Rash surveillance. Adding to that, the project also aims to strengthen sustaining polio essential functions and performance indicators in the targeted governorates to achieve and sustain high population immunity against measles/rubella in the high-risk areas.

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are the health Centers staff, district level EPI and surveillance officers, community informants, marginalized groups, slum areas remote populations specifically children under the age of 10.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project was implemented in four governorates in Egypt: Cairo, Giza, Qalubia and Sharkia.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases as follow:

Phase 1 Preparation: Identifying high risk area with low immunization coverage, analyzing the causes of low coverage such as hard to reach, unregistered marriages or births, and the lack of awareness about the importance of vaccination,

Phase 2 -Implementation: Documenting, upgrading and operationalizing EPI activities, building on Polio assets with particular focus on AFP and other VPDs surveillance, social mobilization and advocacy, communication and community engagement, Technical support to Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), support the meetings of the project team at central and governorate levels, conduct training workshops for governorate teams on transitioning Polio Program Assets, conduct training workshops on detection, notification and health education on AFP, fever and rash cases for EPI and surveillance officers at district levels and community informants, conduct limited micro survey for AFP and Fever and Rash cases.

Phase 3- Monitoring and Evaluation: Conduct quarterly supervisory visits from central level to the target district, conduct monthly supervisory visits from governorate level to district, GHD conduct quarterly project follow-up and technical support visits, data collection and analysis by national EPI.

Project Start and End Date	10/1/2019 – 06/30/2021
Partner Organizations	Egypt Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP)
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD piloted transition of polio program assets project in three frontiers governorates (Aswan, Red Sea and Matrouh) in the past years and the MOHP was committed to sustain the project activities in these three governorates. In continuation of this project, GHD between 2019- 2021 supported the MOHP in utilizing the experience and lessons learned from the implementation in the previous governorates towards expanding this project into new four governorates: Cairo, Giza, Qalubia and Sharkia. The project was instrumental in identifying high risk area with low immunization coverage, analyzing the causes of low coverage such as hard to reach, unregistered marriages or births, lack of awareness about the importance of vaccination. Hence, will contribute towards maintaining the country polio free status as well as reach targets of measles elimination.

Currently . . .

Egypt achieved polio-free status in 2006, through implementing and sustaining intense activities targeting both population immunity against polio and polio surveillance (AFP and environmental surveillance). Accordingly, they gained experience in management, social mobilization, micro-planning, identifying and reaching previously missed and hard to reach communities, and monitoring and evaluation. Project will use these assets to support country achieve immunization targets.

What's next . . .

Expansion of this project into new governorates will maximize the use of national polio program assets in strengthening immunization activities and addressing challenges in low immunization coverage areas. For every cluster with 10% or more of the surveyed children with <2 MCV doses, an action plan will be developed and implemented to catch up defaulters and achieve and sustain higher immunization coverage rates with all EPI vaccines.

By the Numbers

+200

Health centers staff to be trained on polio program

+450

District level EPI and surveillance officers to be trained on

+450

Community informants to be trained on Polio asset transition

+550

AFP and Fever & Rash Cases were collected from the trained Surveillance Officers and Community informants

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) and Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and dis

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